



USAID
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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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USAID Newsletter

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed to give USAID £4 million (approx. \$6.3



million) over three years to support several democracy and governance projects in the Kyrgyz Republic. This significant transfer of funds will allow USAID to greatly expand its parliamentary, civic advocacy, and election support activities. The official ceremony on signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was held on March 13 at the DFID's Bishkek office. *Photo 1: (seated) Head of the UK Department for International Development in Central Asia, Mr. Kilby, (on the left) and USAID*

Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Gordon (on the right) together with representatives of USAID and DFID during the ceremony of signing the MOU.

Photo 2: Mr. Kilby and Mr. Gordon shaking hands after signing the MOU on further cooperation.



Economic Development



USAID Launches Seed Production Assistance Program. On March 7, USAID, in close cooperation with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (GOK), officially launched a \$7.4 million seed production assistance program to help farmers increase agricultural yields. The program will provide equipment and high quality seeds to seed farms in each province in the Kyrgyz Republic to improve seed stocks available for both domestic and international markets. *Photo 1: USAID Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Carey Gordon (to the left) shakes hands with Mr. Iskender Murzaliyev, Head of Oktyabr Seed Farm.*



Republic (left), Erkinbek Mamatayev, Head of Burgundu aiyl okmotu (middle) and Altynbek Kadyrov, Deputy Country Director of ACTED (right) commemorate a joint partnership at the grant signing ceremony on April 18.

USAID/OTI Working to Rehabilitate Infrastructure in Jalal-Abad. On April 18, the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) awarded grants to the Burgundu municipality in the Jalal-Abad region and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) to connect two canals in Nookan district. Connecting the canals will help ensure access to irrigation water for seven multiethnic villages where tensions are increasing between residents over access to water. The two grants will benefit 1,924 households that cultivate 1,500 hectares of land and will strengthen agricultural output while improving local governance and community management of irrigation infrastructure. *Photo: Ashley Moretz, USAID/OTI Representative in the Kyrgyz*



Loan Guarantee Funds Impact on Economic Growth. The USAID Local Development Program (LDP), in collaboration with two municipalities and local banks, helped establish two loan guarantee funds in Kara-Balta and Jalal-Abad cities, with collateral that is affordable to borrowers of small and medium businesses. To date, 16 loans have been made for light manufacturing, services, livestock, and retail trade. Because of their immediate, direct and visible impact on local economic growth, the funds have generated tremendous interest in other municipalities in the Kyrgyz Republic. New guarantee funds are planned to be launched in Naryn and Karakol. *Photo: Zulaika Naamatova, a bakery owner in Kara-Balta believes that the Guarantee Fund will help her business to grow and*

she plans to apply again in the future.



Improving Access to Irrigation Water in Kara-Kulja District. On April 19, 2012, USAID funded three grants totaling \$92,294 to improve the access of irrigation water in the Kara-Guz, Kashka-Jol, and Ylai-Tala rural municipalities, in the Kara-Kulja district of Osh oblast. Administered through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives, in partnership with local governments and Water User Associations, these activities will revitalize more than 10 kilometers of irrigation canals in the run-up to the spring planting season. Rehabilitation of four kilometers of the Koi-Tash irrigation canal in Kara-Guz will benefit 1,080 farmers with an estimated 300% annual increase in agricultural yield. The grant funds will deploy mechanized excavation and rehabilitation services to clean and restore canals in all three municipalities. These activities will increase the carrying capacity of

individual channels and improve access to irrigation water thereby mitigating potential local conflict and helping to revitalize the economy of southern Kyrgyz Republic. *Photo: (right) Zamirbek Kadenov, Head of Kara-Guz village municipality (Kara-Kulja district, Osh province), and Ashley Moretz, USAID/OTI Country Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic, sign a grant agreement to improve access to irrigation water in the run-up to the spring planting season.*

Health and Education



USAID Continues to Support the National Admission Test. On March 5, Kanat Sadykov, the Kyrgyz Republic's Minister of Education and Science; Inna Valkova, Director of the Center for Educational Assessment and Teaching Methods (CEATM); and Carey Gordon, USAID Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic gave a press conference on USAID's continuing support for the 2012 National Admission Test (NAT). The NAT enables equal and fair access to higher education through transparent and independent testing, thus reducing corruption. Furthermore, it is available in Kyrgyz, Russian, and Uzbek, and beginning in 2012 is mandatory for admission to both public and private universities. With USAID's assistance, CEATM has been able to develop new tests, publish updated study guides, and conduct public awareness campaigns throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. *Photo: Director of the Center for Educational Assessment and Teaching Methods, Ms. Inna Valkova (from left to right), Minister*

of Education and Science, Mr. Kanat Sadykov, USAID Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Carey Gordon, and Education Advisor Erkin Konurbaev, at the press conference.

USAID/Kyrgyz Republic Commemorates World TB Day. USAID, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, conducted over 20 events devoted to World TB Day from March 19 to March 30 across the country. The events included a press conference; a contest for the best drawings entitled "Stop TB" among TB patients at hospitals and village school children; a marathon with over 190 students in white T-shirts with the USAID identity and a slogan "I can stop TB"; a contest for the best performance on a TB theme among students; and sport competitions were conducted with the support of Village Health Committees in several villages of Issyk-Kul province. *Photo: Dozens of high school and university students took part in the contest of drawings and marathon and ready to let the balloons fly when the award ceremony ended.*



Job Fair "Isfana-2012" Offered 300 Jobs Across Batken District. A job fair entitled "Isfana - 2012" was organized in Isfana of Batken province, which truly became unique and among few activities promoting employment of youth in the region. The job fair hosted over 300 job seekers and 18 employers who offered 300 jobs across Batken region, including jobs in education, health, construction, industry, finance, and other jobs. Over 200 job seekers were selected to participate in unique capacity-building activities that improved their basic professional, personal, and legal skills and knowledge. The job fair was organized by the Ministry of Youth, Labor, and Employment of the Kyrgyz Republic under the USAID "Education Loan Program" implemented by the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia in partnership with the Association of Educational Agencies (EdNet), the International Business Council (IBC), and the American Chamber of Commerce. *Photo: Young job*

seeker has filled out several applications for employment at the job fair.

Democracy and Governance



Deputy of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) (on the right) cutting the ribbon to invite guests to the new Legal Advisory Center (LAC).

USAID Inaugurates Labor Rights Advisory Center in Bishkek. On March 12, USAID Representative Carey Gordon and representatives of the Kyrgyz Parliament, judiciary, government ministries, trade unions, businesses and international donors together with USAID's implementing partner, the Solidarity Center, participated in an opening ceremony of the Legal Advisory Center (LAC) located at the Kyrgyz National University. The LAC will provide free legal consulting services on labor rights and benefits; consultations for workers and employers; promote professional development of young lawyers for research and reform work in the area of labor regulations; and disseminate legal knowledge to key audiences. *Photo: Carey Gordon, USAID*

Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic (on the left) and Ravshan Jeenbekov,



Foundation (IYF). *Photo 1: U.S. Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen (in the center) with representatives of the Ministry of Education, orphanages, and non-governmental organizations. Photo 2: A student at the orphanage receiving sewing skills at her choice, others learn hairdressing, cooking, IT technologies, etc.*

USAID Supports Life Skills Development for Youth in Country's Orphanages.

On March 28, U.S. Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen together with Deputy Minister of Health and directors of nine orphanages officially launched two-year activities aimed at building the capacity of over 270 young people aged 14-17 living in orphanages in Chui, Jalal-Abad, and Osh provinces. These activities will help provide them with the critical life skills needed to make a successful transition to adulthood and living outside of the facility. Youth activities will be based on the Passport to Success Life Skills program (Jasa.kg), implemented by the International Youth



USAID/OTI Partners with Local Municipality to Light Streets in Kara-Suu.

On April 17, OTI funded a grant to improve street light services in the Furkat village of Kara-Suu district of Osh Province. The June 2010 violence severely damaged residences, businesses, and schools in Furkat village. The project will benefit approximately 3,500 residents by procuring street light poles and street lamps for 2.6 kilometers of roads along a heavily trafficked route in and out of Osh city, a region associated with ethnic instability. This activity will respond directly to concerns over rising tensions between Uzbek and Kyrgyz populations, as well as strengthen relationships between citizens and local government officials. *Photo: Community members gathered at the grant award ceremony and feel excited that access to electricity would be improved.*



Conflict Mapping Expands Impact. USAID/OTI partnered with ACTED in 2011 to develop an online, [interactive map](#) to identify socio-economic resources and potential areas of conflict in the Ferghana Valley. In the four months since its release, ACTED estimates that the map has assisted in mobilizing more than \$10 million in donor funds to more effectively address conflict reduction and good governance. The European Union has committed to funding the expansion of data collection to include 40 additional communities. The implementation is being done by a consortium of 15 international and local NGOs and the data will be used in nearly 100 communities to respond to the "high" and "medium" sources of tension, including a number identified by the original USAID/OTI projects. (For more

information, see this [report](#).) *Photo: Lucien Lefcourt ACTED COMTACA Project Manager, presents an interactive map to USAID staff and implementing partners on April 27.*



USAID Supports Global Youth Service Day. On April 20-27, USAID's Jasa.kg project, which is implemented by the International Youth Foundation, held a Youth Kindness Week campaign devoted to the Global Youth Service Day. Thousands of young people were involved in organizing social events under the motto "Young People are Changing the World!" Citizens throughout the country volunteered to conduct community activities and events that were implemented voluntarily by citizens across the country. The activities included cleaning and improving the territories of orphanages and nursing homes, planting trees, and teaching children in orphanages about Internet technologies. *Photo: Fifteen participants of the "Passport to Success" program at Toichi Altybaeva school #92 in Kara-Suu district, Osh province organized a clean-up day (subbotnik) and helped to clean the houses in Tashlak village damaged during the inter-ethnic violence in 2010 after reconstruction.*

For more information about USAID in the Kyrgyz Republic contact:

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